



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
Health Department

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MAYOR

PAULETTE RENAULT-CARAGIANES
DIRECTOR

February 15, 2013

Dear Honorable State Senator Walker:

The Office of Somerville Commissions supports the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women and its ongoing work for women. The Somerville Commission for Women is a collaborating body with the PCSW and has worked together on important issues over the years.

The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women is a leader in the work to improve a sustainable and rich life for women. The research, programming, advocacy, and education by the Commission is a model for the region's commission for women. There is an important reason to have a separate identity because the work specific to women's health, economics, and safety is an established field. It is difficult to merge separate fields together because the gaps, challenges, needs, opportunities are built on distinct frameworks. There is no economies-of-scale when there is a merger of disparate fields. There will be a significant decrease in success at the state level that will diminish the overall achievements as well as opportunities in the future.

The work of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women is critical to the region and the Office of Somerville Commissions supports their leadership in New England and welcomes the PCSW as a strong ally for women.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonja Darai, Director



OFFICE OF SOMERVILLE COMMISSIONS

Human Rights

Women

Multicultural Affairs

LGBT

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